

To the Rural District Council of
Crowland.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1925, I have followed the headings indicated in the Memorandum to the Medical Officers of Health on the preparation of their annual reports.

The report for 1925 is a survey report and therefore contains more details than an ordinary report.

Natural and Social condition of the area.

Area (in acres) 13249.
Population, Census (1921) 2729.
Population, Estimated 1925 2790.
Number of inhabited houses (1921) 676.
Rateable Value 27451£.
Rateable value of a penny rate 70£.

c Physical features and general character of the area.

S. The district is situated in the Fens, and is in a plain at an
S. elevation of about 10 feet above the sea level. It is well drained
S. the surface water being removed by gravitation in artificial drains
S. and watercourses which eventually fall into the River Nene.
S. The district is traversed by the River Welland, which is subject
S. to floods and the influence of spring tides.

The district is fertile, and has very few trees, and is much exposed to the wind, which causes the climate to be somewhat rigorous. There is a very low rainfall.

Social Conditions.

The inhabitants are wholly engaged in agriculture and the few trades dependent upon the same. By reason of most of the employment being out of doors the inhabitants are healthy, in spite of the fact that the sanitary conditions of the district is not perfect, There is no great amount of poverty.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Male.	Female.	
Births	{ Legitimate	61	28	33	} Birth Rate 21.5 per 1000.
	{ Illegitimate	1	4	4	
		Total	Male.	Female.	11.9 per 1000.
Deaths		33	12	21	Death Rate

Deaths of Infants under one year.

Legitimate.	Illegitimate,	Total.
1	0	1

Poor Law Relief.

Out door relief.

Male. 19 Female. 34 Children 30 Total. 83

In door relief.

Male. 3 Female. 3 Children 0 Total. 6

Number of orders issued for Medical relief. 8

Causes of Sickness and invalidity calling for notice,

There was one case of Encephalitis lethargica with a fatal termination.

There were seven cases of tubercular disease on the register during 1925.

of these 6 were Pulmonary.

There were 2 deaths due to Pulmonary tuberculosis.

Diseases of the heart caused 7 deaths

Cancer „ 2 deaths

Erysipelas „ 1 death

Diabetes „ 1 death

The only infectious diseases notified was 3 cases of Erysipelas.

General provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority
or by the County Council.

Tuberculosis There is a Sanatorium at Kirton and a Clinic at Spalding both under the Holland County Council.

Maternity	Nil.
Children	Nil.
Fever	By an agreement with the Soke of Peterborough authorities fever cases will be admitted to the isolation hospital at Peterborough, if there room for them.
Small Pox	Cases are to be admitted to the small pox hospital at Peterborough.

Other Hospitals.

There are no hospitals in the area.

The area is served by the Infirmary at Peterborough.

The Johnson Hospital at Spalding to a small extent.

The Poor Law infirmary at Peterborough, to which the area belongs for poor law administration,

There is no provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children in the area.

Ambulance facilities (a) infectious cases Nil,
(b) non-infectious and accidents cases Nil.

All cases are moved in private vehicles as can be best arranged.

Clinic and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child welfare centres Nil.

Day Nurseries Nil.

School Clinics There is a Medical Officer and Nurse and a dental van under the County Council Authorities.

Tuberculosis dispensaries, There is a clinic under the County Council at Spalding.

Venereal Diseases These generally go the clinic at Peterborough.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

There is a part time Medical Officer,
a part time Sanitary Inspector.
a part time Meat Inspector.

There are no health visitors or nurses employed by the Authority.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a)	General	Nil.
(b)	Infectious diseases	Nil,

Midwives.

There is one registered Midwife in the district who as a rule does not work in the district.

Chemical work. Nil.

Legislation in force. Nil.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the district is derived from the River Weiland, and various drains connected with the same, surface water wells, and rain water. The River Weiland receives the drainage of the Deepings eight miles above Crowland. The current is slow and the river is shallow, and the water is fairly pure when it reaches the district. But there is always a risk of waterborn disease, not only from above, but from below at spring tides especially when the river is low.

The surface water from shallow wells in the district is very hard, and in the village is liable to pollution, and in many cases is polluted and is not fit for drinking purposes.

Rain water is the best water obtainable for drinking purposes, but it is often spoilt by being badly stored, and when kept in underground cisterns is liable to pollution from sewage. Filters are largely used, but most of them are of a useless pattern.

There is also an artesian well in the village, the water from which is distributed in pipes to taps in the streets. There is a good supply from this source, but unfortunately it contains 200 grains of Sodium Chloride to the gallon, which renders it unfit for drinking.

Drainage and Sewerage,

This is not satisfactory. The various drains and water-courses about the place are under the control of several Drainage Authorities and they are only responsible for the removal of surface water.

Closet Accommodation.

The majority of closets in the district are privies. An attempt has been made for some years to substitute pails for these. The pails have been most successful in some cases and would be in all, if only the users would take a little trouble to use them properly. In a few of the larger houses there are water closets.

Scavenging

The house refuse in the village is removed twice a week in a cart sent round by the Sanitary Authority. Pails from closets are also collected by the same cart. Privies are emptied by the occupier. The surface water drains are cleaned by the body responsible for them.

Sanitary Inspection of the area.

Sanitary inspections of the district have been made from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. The following inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector

(a)	Cow Sheds and Dairies	...	60	visits
	Slaughter Houses	...	2	"
	Bakehouses	..	8	"
	Private Houses	...	13	"
(b)	Nnnumber of notices served		Six	
(c)	Result of the service of such notices			all attended to.

Smoke Abatement. Nil.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye Laws and Regulations.

There is one lodging house in the area which is satisfactory.

There are no cellar dwellings or offensive trades,

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools is fair. The water supply is rain water. Infectious cases notified to me by request of the Medical Inspector. The children are inspected by an officer appointed by the Educational Authority.

HOUSING.

General Housing Conditions.

There is a shortage of houses in the area ehiefly due to the age of a want of accomodation in the present cottages. Many of the present cottages have only two bed-rooms.

It is intended to build 20 new cottages to ease the present situation.

Several cottages ought to be closed and it will be possible to do so when the new ones are built.

No action has been taken as regards unfit houses,

There are no unhealthy areas,

There are no bye-laws relating to houses etc.

Housing Statistics for the year 1925.

Houses erected during the year One by private enterprise.

1. *Unfit dwelling houses.*

Inspection-(1)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	13
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the regulations 1910 etc.			...	0

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20
2. <i>Remedy of Defects of formal Notices.</i>							
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
3. <i>Action under Statutory Powers.</i>							
A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.							}
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.							
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—							
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.							} Nil.
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.—	...	...	...	...	...
(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...
C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.							
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	...	...	...	...	...
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit.	} Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY—

Is fairly and good, and is all of local production by small farmers who possess one to six cows.

No action of any kind has been taken as regards milk.

(b) MEAT—

No action has been taken under meat regulations.

Private Slaughter Houses.

	1920	Jan. 1925	Dec. 1925
Registered	0	0	0
Licensed	0	0	0

The condition of the bakehouses is satisfactory—

No action has been taken as regards food.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are dealt with by the Medical Officer of health as required.

No use has been made of the Schick and Dick tests.

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officers of health under the 1917 small pox regulations.

Notices are sent from the School teachers to M. O. H. as regards cases of sickness in the schools.

There was no mortality from influenza in 1925.

There are no facilities for cleansing verminous persons.

Infected premises are treated with formalin spray.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths,
Small Pox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	1
Encephatitis Lethargica ...	3	0	1
Pneumonia	1	0	1

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during 1925 should be given in the Report in the following form :—

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non: Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1								
5								
10								
15	1		1					
20								
25								
35		3						
45	1	2			1	2		
55								
65 and upwards.								
Totals	2	5	1		1	2		

Public Health (prevention of Tuberculosis) regulations 1925.

No action was taken under the above.

Maternity and Child welfare Nil.

In conclusion I should like to point out that there is much sanitary work in the area which will have to be taken in hand in the future.

The question of housing is being taken in hand. After this is the question of a water supply which has been badly needed for years. A water supply will of necessity be followed by a system of drainage. Electric power will be available in the district and I would urge the Council to use all their influence to introduce electric light and power

I also consider that the time has passed, when a small area, such as the Crowland Rural district should have its own Medical Officer of Health. Thirty years ago, when I first took over the district, it was useful, as communication with the area was poor, and it was necessary to act in an emergency.

At the present time the administration of public health has become much more complicated. County Medical Officers have been appointed and with improved communication can administer large areas devoting all their time to public health administration. Therefore I think it is time that this district was absorbed by a larger one which would employ a whole time officer.

Your Obedient Servant,

FRANK HUSBAND-CLUTTON,

M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P

M.O.H. Crowland Rural District.

